



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
Commission

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MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
May 20, 2015
Legislative Office Building Room 2D
Hartford, CT
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Yolanda Castillo, Migdalia Castro, Richard A. Cruz, Ana González, Dr. Ruby O'Neill, Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Christian Soto, Pablo Soto, Feny Taylor and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners on the Phone:	George Hernández and Danny Torres
Commissioners Absent:	Jay González, Emanuela Palmares Leaf, Rubén Rodríguez and Dr. Eugene M. Salorio
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Executive Director, Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary Gabriela Guevara, Intern

Tape 1 A

Chairman Cruz, Chairman asked Commissioner Castillo to do the roll call in the absence of Commissioner Palmares Leaf. Quorum was not established. Then Commissioner Torres called in and quorum was established.

Commissioner Torres called in and quorum was established.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Ken Barone, Policy and Research Specialist, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy CCSU, and joined today by Jim Fazzalano who is a retired 36 year Researcher with the Office of Legislative Research where he is the primary researcher for Transportation Committee and he also worked with the Public Safety Committee and he is one of the coauthors of the CT Racial Profiling of the Traffic Stop data analysis and the Manager of the project. They are also joined by Andrew Clark, Director of the Institute at CCSU and the Project Director. The Racial Profiling Prohibition project has been underway since 2012. The State Legislature decided to revisit the Alvin Penn Racial Profiling law that was originally passed in 1999. They were tasked by Undersecretary Mike Lawlor who is the Governor's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Undersecretary at OPM to work with the Department of Transportation in CT to secure a grant from the Federal Government to help the state in implementing the Racial Profiling Law. They put together an Advisory Board of which Mr. Oyanadel is a member of along with the other state commissions, law enforcement, other advocacy groups and members of the general public. They spent 3 years putting in place top law in state of the art system to collect information on who law enforcement officers are pulling over. This is important because traffic stops are the most common encounter that a member of the law enforcement will have with a member of the community. We are still collecting information as they are collected and submitted every single month. After the first year, we published the first report and the information is available on-line.

Tape 1 B

Commissioner Ana González asked what is the next step for this report and based on the initial part of the report, is there a call to action or a recommendation gathered as legislative action to take based on the information obtained.

Ken Barone responded that this report be done annually. The Legislature has mandated that the traffic stop study be done every year. They anticipate that they'll continue to make improvements on the way in which they have done this and eventually we'll have enough data to compare year against year. They are also making further analysis on all 10 departments that were named in this report. Part of their job is to put the information out there and to be transparent about what it is they are finding, to be transparent with the public, to be transparent with the Legislature, a variety of interest groups are on the Advisory Board. It is their goal to do the research, to do the data, to answer policy questions that might come from Legislators. In terms of a call to

Chairperson

Richard A. Cruz

Vice Chair

Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Secretary

Emanuela Palmares-Leaf

Treasurer

Yolanda Castillo

Commissioners:

Ramón L. Arroyo

Migdalia Castro

Ana González

Jay González

George Hernández

Dr. Ruby O'Neill

Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Ruben Rodríguez

Dr. Eugene M. Salorio

Christian Soto

Pablo Soto

Feny Taylor

Danny Torres

Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Associate Legislative Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

action may be something that LPRAC would take and other commissions. One of the things that he believes that every officer should go through and they've begun this already, is take Fair and Impartial Policing Training. The Department of Justice trained 10 of them to be certified DOJ trainers last year in implicit bias training for law enforcement. They've begun this training for police supervisors and we hope that all departments make a commitment to Fair and Impartial Policing Training that they can train all 9,000 officers in the upcoming months. Another call of action is to simply utilize this data during public conversations.

Andrew Clark also added that they have a tremendous amount of cooperation from the police in working out the technical issues and the logistics. They created options, cost free options for them to collect this data.

Chairman Cruz asked that we go through our Priorities and Legislative Committee so a we continue to look on this and prepare for next year's legislative session as to how we are going to approach this, are they available to help on some information.

Andrew Clark said that both Mr. Oyanadel and his staff have his information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015 by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Castro. One abstention: Chairman Cruz. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Cruz reported the following:

1. Senator Tony Hwang from Fairfield had a rally outside the Capitol this afternoon and Mr. Oyanadel and I attended.
2. He then thanked Vice Chair Trueworthy for running the meeting while he was out on vacation.
3. He also thanked all the LPRAC Commissioners for a fantastic Veteran's event on May 13, 2015. One of the recommendations is to find a room to get a better acoustics.
4. He also wants to confirm that all new commissioners are actively participating in two committees. If you have any questions, please see him after the meeting.
5. He said that last month, LPRAC sent a letter to the President of the Board of Regents for Higher Education about the recommendation to close Middlesex Community College's Meriden Campus and Institute. It was vetoed by the Governor of Connecticut but in the correspondence that we received as a result of our letter to the Governor, we hear that the Board of Regents has reversed course and will continue to enroll students.

Motion made to accept the Chairperson's report by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel briefed the commission on the following:

1. He informed everyone that there are two more weeks till the end of session. We're responding to a number of the requests from Legislators for information and if they are in line with some of the information in regards to our priorities that we have highlighted, we are happy to respond to those requests.
2. The Senate was debating some issues with regards to scholarship access to immigrant students and Senator Bartolomeo asked questions in the Chamber which is normally not allowed and he was happy to be of assistance.
3. He also met with Representative Arthur O'Neill as one of our bills was actually delayed in the legislative process as it related to the Governor's bill in regards to instate tuition. He provided some information that Representative O'Neill was requesting in regards to how many students received instate tuition in the University of CT and he was the only one who had that data. Representative Lamar did not have that information and he approached Representative O'Neill and gave him the number which is about 90. He also asked Representative O'Neill for his opinion as to how we can move some bills forward with the bipartisan cooperation. He was able to provide some valuable information.
4. He wanted to highlight some which are not about our priorities but are issues that have been relevant to our commission because we actually played a role passing that legislation. State Representative Juan Candelaria introduced an amendment to the Drive Only legislation which was to correct the mistake that we made when we passed legislation back in 2013 which is an area which he brought to the attention of Representative Candelaria which was that many of the advocates were saying that they were being denied access to the process because the Department of Motor Vehicles were not accepting their Birth Certificates as a proof of identity so the Legislature corrected that issue at least in the House a couple of days ago and now it is going to the Senate. Last night, for the first time in our history, we had two bills that were going through the Senate and the House at the same time. That has never happened before. In the Senate, we had Senator Looney's proposal that would provide financial assistance institutional aid for immigrants that actually passed with bipartisan

support. Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives we had an 8 hour debate on the issue of a Governor's proposal that would decrease the threshold to qualify the instate tuition bill from 3 years to 2. The debate for that bill lasted almost 8 hours and State Representative Lamar actually spoke for all that length of time. The bill passed with a very tight line of support. It was passed by political affiliation but it is probably one of the closest calls that we have had in any bill passed in the Legislature thus far.

5. On the budget we, as a commission, testified in reference to a number of topics that were dealing with in the budget. One is very important to us because the work that we are working in supporting in regards to bilingual education includes in the budget according to what the Appropriations Committee recommended, additional money of almost \$1.3 million in one of the two fiscal years for the upcoming biennium. State Representative Brendan Sharkey who is the Speaker of the House is also on the record saying that he will mobilize an additional \$5 million from funds that are heading over to the Department of Education so that he can have a pilot program to test some of the proposals that are recommended by the Legislature this year.
6. The final message to the commission is the issue of Racial Profiling. The African American Affairs Commission, the Asian Commission, the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union in addition to some members of the Black and Latino Caucus are trying to be response as a result of the report that was highlighted here today. What we are recommending as a result of that report is what Mr. Barone mentioned to you today which was the need for the Police Departments to have additional training in Bias Free Policing Tactics. We have met with the Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee with Senator Eric Coleman which agreed to amend the larger bill, number 1109 which includes the work of the use of excessive force in the Legislature.
7. He commended everyone that attended the event that was conducted here in the Legislature for the Veterans. Commissioner Chris Soto did an incredible job being the Master of Ceremony being a new member of the board and he should be credited with a great job and should be commended for that. We had a high participation of members of the board and had a significant number of Legislators from both political parties that were present at that event from our Governor of the State of Connecticut, and from our elected officials, the general public and the media. CTN covered the story and was actually played on different dates. We have the whole program on demand and will be publishing it on our website. In addition to CTN, we also had Channels 3 and 61 covering the story. This really speaks highly of the good efforts of Commissioner Ana González in the Public Information Committee making sure the work that we do get publicized in the appropriate way. We have some great news; we have over 50 bills where we are making a presence in the Legislature. It is the highest number in participation that we have ever had in the past and he is very happy that the commissioners are playing a big role in making sure that it gets done.

Motion made to accept the Executive Director's report by Commissioner Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Chairman Cruz reminded the Chairs of all Committees can join the Executive Committee meeting before the Commission meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ana González, Chair for this Committee spoke on the following:

1. Hispanic Heritage in September 2015. She thanked all Commissioners for sending the inspirational role models and quotes. The quotes and individuals for 2015 which will be displayed in our social media will be Delores Huertas-US, Octavio Paz-Mexico, José Martin-Cuba, Julia de Burgos-Puerto Rico, Roberta Bechu-Guatemala, Pablo Neruda-Chile, Marina Silva-Brazil, José Luis Borges-Argentina. We will be working with a graphic designer courtesy of LPRAC and recommended by the Executive Director to make this happen during Hispanic Heritage month.
2. We are also working on "Un Minuto Latino" in collaboration with CT Public Broadcasting. We ask for your feedback in identifying Latinos, American born Latinos that have been Latino first to highlight during the minuto Latino. Some of the recommendations are Elena Ochoa-First Latina Astronaut, Sonia Sotomayor, Sandra Sinero, Rita Moreno, Luis Walter Alvarez and we want your feedback. And then we are looking for local CT Latino First that you might want to recommend. Some of the names thrown around but we are not going to move forward without your recommendations. Some of the names are Lieutenant Coronal Lesbia Nieves, Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Judge Carmen Espinosa and Dr. Wilfredo Nieves. Please email members of the committee. We will discuss this in our next call.
3. We have finalized our LPRAC outreach events. In Wallingford-July 15, 2015 and in Stamford-September 16, 2015. We are very grateful to Commissioner Pablo Soto for recommending the Wallingford location as well as putting us in touch with our collaborator in Wallingford. We are also grateful to Commissioner Salorio for being a mediator and for helping us find a venue in Stamford and we will be hosting our meeting at UCONN Stamford. Flyers are currently being prepared, they will be distributed very soon and letters to local officials are going to be disseminated promptly.
4. We are working with the potential Lead Poisoning Outreach Grant which is a total of \$90,000 with the goal of providing culturally accurate information on lead prevention in the cities of New Haven, Waterbury and Bridgeport.

Mr. Oyanadel explained it's on Lead Poisoning and we want to inform the population where the level is higher than 5 mm, and talk about how the parents can get those services. We want to work with the Dept. of Public Health if they give us this funding so that we can go into the airwaves, Univision and Telemundo so the kids can get tested. We are very close to getting this grant money. If we are able to do that, we have to spend these funds no later than September. We are now requesting an extension and there is a copy of the proposal that we produced to the Dept. of Public Health.

Commissioner Ana González responded that it is on Attachment C. Next, I Speak cards are on Attachment D.

5. Hartford event with Representative Angel Arce on Saturday, June 20, 2015;
6. The Meriden Puerto Rican Festival 2015 is on August 2, 2015;
7. We are very grateful to Commissioner Chris Soto for hooking us up with a New London Sail Fest on July 10th or 11th, 2015;
8. We participated in the CBIA Economic Summit;
9. During the month of June, the committee recommends having the recognition of the retiring Ambassadors of Chile, Peru and Brazil during our Public Participation section of our June meeting; and finally,
10. On Thursday, May 7th, 2015, Commissioner Castillo represented LPRAC at the State of CT African American Commission Forum on Race. There will be a forum in Bridgeport, date to be announced, where our Chairman Cruz will be attending the event.

Tape 2 A

Commissioner Ana González concluded her report.

Motion made to accept the Public Information Committee report by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Quiñones. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Quiñones said that in Mr. Rodríguez's report in the back, there is a summary of the meeting on May 12th, and she would like to highlight that Mr. Rodríguez is tracking 51 bills. We are looking forward in the next couple of weeks that our bills will be approved and become law. For her report, a couple of things that are important are as follows:

1. An approach that we made to Vice Chair Trueworthy with regards to the availability of the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving which is an organization that she is affiliated with, to explore ways by which we could continue to have a conversation in terms of our English Language Learners and their families. Mr. Rodríguez did a preliminary outreach to the Foundation and had a conversation with one of the program officers to explore whether they would be interested in underwriting our initiatives and he said that the Foundation is very interested.
2. We want to be able to do is to design a vehicle by which parents, students, stakeholders, community leaders have a way of advising the CT State Department of Education in issues that are important to our emerging bilinguals because the issues continue to be important. She is going to continue having conversations with the Program Officer at the Foundation to have some regional events and to establish an advisory body that may be able overtime continue to address the needs of our emerging bilinguals in the state. We trust that the Foundation, having been the leader in the Hartford region that other foundations will follow suit and support us in this most important events, the New Haven Foundation, the New Britain Foundation, the Fairfield County Foundation that they join in to support this initiative.
3. She was at an event and was introduced to Connecticut Assistant Attorney, General Jeannette Figueroa Velazco, she represents Waterbury Region and I indicated that this body would be an appropriate body for her to come in and introduce herself. She thinks that as a Latina in the Judicial System and having status of the CT Assistant Attorney General and potentially a judge, it would be very important to us and for the betterment of our community. Mr. Rodríguez is working in putting together her supporting documentation for this commission to review and once we review the documentation in our committee, we will bring it to the commission and we will have an opportunity to entertain the way we want to pursue her request.

Motion made to accept the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Ana González. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Castillo reported in the absence of Commissioner Torres, Chairman of this committee as follows:

1. *Ninth Annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans Ceremony* was held last Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 at the State Capitol from 5:30-7:30 pm. We had an outstanding attendance including many Legislators, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. All went extremely well and we will be dealing with the issue of the acoustics for next year's 10th anniversary. We received media coverage from TV 3, TV 61 and CT-N. Print media was also present in the form of Tribuna Newspaper from Danbury.

2. *Stamp Exhibit for Hispanic Heritage Month* – OLM thinks they may not have space for us due to the backlog that occurred while they were writing the display policy-staff will continue to monitor on our behalf.
3. *Fundraising* – We received a \$5,000 gold sponsorship for this year's scholarship awards from ECSU.
4. *Hispanic Heritage Celebration* – Public Information and Special Projects will work together and developing this event.
5. *Board-Staff Retreat* If you have not already scheduled the date for our Board-Staff Retreat, it is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Portuguese Center of Danbury.
6. *Retreat Facilitator* – Your recommendations would be greatly appreciated as we do not have someone to do this for us. I understand the Executive Director will be reaching out to John Padilla, the last potential facilitator to be approached by staff as there has been no response.
7. *November Scholarship Ceremony* – Staff will design a program for the day and Commissioner Lima Leaf has stepped back and recommends we pair Commissioner Chris Soto and Commissioner Ana González for this event as the MC's.

Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

RBA COMMITTEE

Commissioner Pablo Soto reported that they held a meeting of the RBA Subcommittee on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. Present were Commissioners Cruz, O'Neill, Salorio and himself and Mr. Rodríguez. Mr. Rodríguez had composed and presented data regarding the K-12 Mastery Tests. They reviewed the data from 2006 to 2013 specifically the third grade co-groups for the year 2006 through 2008 regarding to reading and math. Based on the data presented, it does indicate that perhaps we are over testing our children; the graph itself indicates that the increase is minimum between 2006 & 2011, it almost seems flat. They will be doing an RBA session scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room1 B of the Legislative Office Building. The Moderator will be Barry Goth and we need the help of every Commissioner if they can through your networks too, on the topic "Are we testing too much in Connecticut."

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Castro congratulated everyone for the wonderful Veteran's event that she couldn't attend. She was in Puerto Rico, after 26 years of no vacation, and was with her mom for Mother's Day and for her own birthday.

Chairman Cruz wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Then he mentioned that Mr. Rodríguez's brother had to leave abruptly this afternoon as his brother got seriously injured in an accident. He asked for a moment of prayer.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Emanuela Palmares Leaf
Secretary
LPRAC Board

EPL:cjc